

CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE

Minutes of the August 8, 2011 Meeting

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A regular meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife was scheduled for 5:30 p.m. on Monday, August 8, 2011, in the Business Resource Innovation Center (BRIC), 108 East Proctor Street, Room A, Carson City, Nevada.

Present: Chairman Gil Yanuck
Vice Chairman Stan Zuber
Member Jim Davis
Member Doug Martin
Member John Valley

Staff: Tamar Warren, Recording Secretary

NOTE: A recording of these proceedings, the Board's agenda materials, and any written comments or documentation provided to the recording secretary during the meeting are public record. These materials are on file in the Clerk's Office and are available for review during regular business hours.

1. **CALL TO ORDER, DETERMINATION OF QUORUM.** (5:29:18) – Chairman Yanuck called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. A quorum was present. Member Martin joined via telephone at 6:10 p.m.
2. **ACTION ON APPROVAL OF MINUTES.** (5:42:52) – **Vice Chairman Zuber moved to approve the May 9, 2011 meeting minutes. The motion was seconded by Member Valley. Motion carried 4-0.**
3. **MODIFICATIONS TO THE AGENDA.** (5:30:19) – Chairman Yanuck requested to hear item 9J after item 5 to accommodate Wildlife Biologist Carl Lackey's schedule. He also announced that a communication from the Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) indicated that the bear hunt discussion has been removed from the Commission's meeting agenda, and would be discussed in the September meeting. Therefore, items 8D, 9E would be removed from this meeting agenda and would be re-agendized for the September meeting. At Member Martin's request, agenda item 9G was heard after item 9J.
4. **PUBLIC COMMENT ON NON-AGENDIZED ITEMS.** (5:33:33) – Mike Smith from Reno stated that he was against the bear hunt because he believed the hunt was organized by a small group of trophy hunters. As a hunter, he said he understood the wildlife management aspect, however, he believed that the Tahoe Basin was too crowded posing a danger from firearm use, adding that the hunt would also create a "public relations problem", since people would not come to the area. He added that this would be a detriment to the already-fragile economy. Mr. Smith was also concerned that the Commission had stopped funding bear-awareness programs three years ago. Billy Howard from Reno thanked Chairman Yanuck for his service and dedication to the protection of Wildlife. He stated that he represented nobearhuntnevada.org and informed the Board that they were in the process of gathering signatures, because they believed "the hunt should not go forward". Mr. Howard told the board that they had gathered 5,000 hard-copy signatures, mostly from "people in Nevada, and a smaller section from people who visit Tahoe". He Quoted a Commission member who had said "I can't really ignore the public outcry about this", stating that "once the hunt was made permanent, you people would have very little recourse". Mr. Howard believed that they had "a lot of strength", and offered to help Mr. Lackey in any way they could.
5. **DISCLOSURES.** (5:43:24) – Chairman Yanuck disclosed several e-mails, incorporated into the record, in opposition to the bear hunt. Member Valley also disclosed that he had received several e-mails, incorporated into the record, opposing the trapping of bobcats.
6. **FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TRI-COUNTY DEER HERD RESTORATION WORKING GROUP.** (6:22:55) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and explained that they had not received any new recommendations from the Working Group, and suggested waiting after their next meeting in September, for additional information.

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7. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: REPORT AND DISCUSSION OF POINTS OF INTEREST FROM THE MAY 12, 13, AND 14, 2011 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING.

8. INFORMATIONAL ITEMS: DISCUSSION REGARDING INFORMATIONAL REPORTS TO BE PRESENTED AT THE AUGUST 12 AND 13, 2011 WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETING. (6:23:26) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and suggested deferring these items, since most were covered in the Consent Agenda section. There were no requests for discussion.

8-A. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: FEDERAL / STATE FALCONRY REGULATION UPDATE - CHIEF OF WILDLIFE DIVERSITY LAURA RICHARDS AND COREY DALTON, NEVADA FALCONERS.

8-B. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: FALCONER'S REPORT - COREY DALTON.

8-C. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: PREDATION MANAGEMENT PLAN FY11 REPORT AND PROJECT PROPOSALS UPDATE - CHIEF OF GAME LARRY GILBERTSON AND GAME DIVISION STAFF.

8-D. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 393 - R002-11 - BEAR HUNT - PROGRAM OFFICER MAUREEN HULLINGER.

8-E. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: 2011 NEVADA STATE LEGISLATURE SESSION REPORT - MANAGEMENT ANALYST KIM JOLLY

8-F. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: FINANCE COMMITTEE REPORT - COMMISSIONER HOWELL

8-G. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: WESTERN ASSOCIATION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE AGENCIES ANNUAL CONFERENCE - CHAIRMAN RAINE AND SECRETARY MAYER

8-H. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: LAW ENFORCEMENT PRACTICES IN INCIDENTS INVOLVING ACCIDENTAL KILLING OF BIG GAME ANIMALS, OVERVIEW OF PROCESS FOR DETERMINATION OF PENALTIES - CHIEF BUONAMICI

8-I. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: HERITAGE PROJECT UPDATE - DEPUTY DIRECTOR PATRICK CATES

8-J. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: LITIGATION REPORT - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN

8-K. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: 2011 OPEN MEETING LAW LEGISLATIVE CHANGES - DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL NHU NGUYEN

8-L. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: CHURCHILL COUNTY WOOD DUCK HARVEST EXPERIMENT - U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE BIOLOGIST CHRIS NICOLAI

8-M. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: WOLF LISTING STATUS IN NEVADA - CHIEF OF GAME LARRY GILBERTSON

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8-N. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: AREA 10 MULE DEER RESEARCH FINDINGS - TONY WASLEY, WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST

8-O. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: SAGE GROUSE HUNTING - COMMISSIONER VOGLER.

8-P. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: REPORT ON ALL NDOW ACTIONS IN PAST YEAR AND ACTIONS PLANNED FOR CURRENT YEAR TO PREVENT ENDANGERED SPECIES LISTING OF SAGE GROUSE; REPORT OF DEPARTMENT OPINION ON EFFECTS OF HUNTING ON SAGE GROUSE POPULATION, AND EFFECTS OF HUNTING ON POSSIBLE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT LISTING

8-Q. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: 2012 COMMISSION CALENDAR CHANGE - SECRETARY MAYER. (6:24:56) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and informed that Director Mayer had requested to change the location of the Commission’s February meeting from Reno to Las Vegas, to allow attendance and the Commission’s support of the International Sportsmen’s Expo and Convention of the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. He added that this move would impact the Board’s budget if one of the Las Vegas meetings was not moved to Reno. Chairman Yanuck stated that he would ask for clarification on Friday.

8-R. INFORMATIONAL ITEM: HISTORY OF BIGHORN IN THE GREAT BASIN, FACTS AND FICTION - HISTORIAN CLIFF GARDNER

9. ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE CONSENT AGENDA. (6:26:23) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item. **Vice Chairman Zuber moved to accept the Consent Agenda, with the exception of items 9F and 9G.** Item 9J had been previously discussed. **The motion was seconded by Member Valley. Motion carried 4-0.**

9-A. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DUCK STAMP REQUEST - CHIEF OF HABITAT ELMER BULL.

9-B. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: UPLAND GAME STAMP REQUEST - CHIEF OF HABITAT ELMER BULL.

9-C. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: FALCONRY REGULATION PROCESS - COMMISSION CHAIR.

9-D. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: WILDLIFE DAMAGE MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE - COMMISSIONER HANK VOGLER.

9-E. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: COMMISSION GENERAL REGULATION NUMBER 393 - R002-11 - BEAR HUNT - PROGRAM OFFICER MAUREEN HULLINGER.

9-F. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: COMMISSION REGULATION 07-07, AMENDMENT #7 - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALISTS RUSSELL WOOLSTENHULME AND SHAWN ESPINOSA. (6:28:24) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item. Member Valley indicated that he had received communication from the Trappers’ Association, via NDOW, and he believed some of the data was conflicting. He stated that he supported the NDOW research, and would like to defer to the wildlife biologists at this time. Chairman Yanuck divulged that he had also received communication from the Trappers’ Association, but was unable to grasp “what they were asking for”. He hoped to get a better understanding at the Commission meeting. **Member Valley moved to support the NDOW recommendation regarding Commission Regulation 07-07, Amendment Number 7. The motion was seconded by Vice Chairman Zuber. Motion carried 4-0.**

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9-G. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: COMMISSION REGULATION 11 - 11 - MIGRATORY WATERFOWL - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST RUSSELL WOOLSTENHULME. (5:58:09) – Chairperson Yanuck introduced the item and read an excerpt from an e-mail by Russell Woolstenhulme, NDOW Biologist, regarding a new waterfowl hunt zone, and the proposed season dates. Chairman Yanuck explained that a special youth waterfowl hunt for the 2011-2012 season, in the northeast zone, would take place on September 17 and 18, 2011; the northwest zone hunt would take place on October 1, 2011; and the southern zone hunt would take place on February 4 and 5, 2012. Member Martin received clarification that the proposed date for their particular area youth hunt would be October 1, 2011 and that October 15, 2011 would be the opening of the general hunt. Member Martin also disclosed that he had spoken with Member Valley and two others about moving the youth hunt to February 10, 2011, two weeks after the close of the general hunt. He cited heat and mosquitoes in October, the abundance of birds in breeding plumage on or around February 1, 2011, and many conflicts with youth athletic activities in October, but not in February. Member Martin added that the geese were not around in migratory numbers, thus would not provide a field-use hunt opportunity. He was also concerned that by having many youth hunting on October 1, the ducks would be skittish for the general-use hunt. Member Martin also disclosed that he had spoken to Mr. Woolstenhulme, who had indicated that he would support whatever sportsmen wanted. In response to Chairman Yanuck’s question, Member Martin explained that this would not impact the number of hunting days allowed by the Federal Government. Member Valley stated that he was in support of the later-season youth hunt due to the availability of more water. He also clarified for Member Martin that during this waterfowl season, hunting was permitted seven days per week in the Scripps Wildlife Management Area in Washoe Lake State Park. **Member Martin made a motion to move the October 1, 2011 youth hunt to two weeks after the close of the general hunt, on a Saturday. Vice Chairperson Zuber seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0.**

(6:11:59) – Member Martin explained that hunting in the Washoe Scripps Wildlife Management Area had been limited to Wednesdays and weekends for the past 20 years. Member Valley indicated that the limitation was a result of the drought in the past years, and assumed it contributed to the low number of hunters, and that the hunting had been sparse. However, he believed it was a great place to hunt, and was close to home. Chairman Yanuck explained that this was a great year as water was plentiful, but cautioned that future years may not be so. He wondered whether more water would attract more birds. Member Martin believed that an NDOW waterfowl biologist “would not propose something that would have a detrimental affect on population”. He suggested supporting this item for a minimum of a year. Discussion ensued regarding land-use versus season-setting regulation. **Member Valley moved to accept the NDOW biologist’s recommendation of keeping the Scripps Wildlife Management Area at Washoe State Park open seven days per week. The motion was seconded by Member Davis. Motion carried 5-0.**

(6:21:03) – **Member Martin moved to support the general hunt opener recommendation on October 15, 2011. The motion was seconded by Member Valley. Motion carried 5-0.**

Member Martin left the meeting at 6:23 p.m.

9-H. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: DISCUSSION OF SAGE GROUSE SEASONS AND HUNTING EFFECTS ON SAGE GROUSE PENDING LISTING UNDER THE ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT, AND POSSIBLE ACTION TO CLOSE SOME OR ALL SAGE GROUSE HUNTING SEASONS IF THE COMMISSION DETERMINES SUCH ACTION TO BE BENEFICIAL - COMMISSIONER VOGLER. (6:33:43) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and stated that at the previous Commission meeting, Commissioner Vogler, had expressed a desire to stop statewide Sage Grouse hunting, because of the potential of it being listed as an endangered species. He believed that there was enough feed to allow a Sage Grouse season, and he recommended the Board go on record supporting it. Member Davis was concerned that an endangered species listing of the Sage Grouse would “shut down all hunting in the area”. He preferred to forgo a sage hen season if necessary. Chairman Yanuck added that such a listing would cause serious economic issues, primarily in the Bi-State area. **Member Valley moved to support**

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eliminating the Sage Grouse hunting season in the Bi-State area, but keeping it as proposed for the rest of the State. The motion was seconded by Member Davis. Motion carried 4-0.

9-I. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: BIENNIAL UPLAND GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST SHAWN ESPINOSA.

9-J. FOR POSSIBLE ACTION: BIENNIAL BIG GAME RELEASE PLAN FOR FISCAL YEAR 2012 AND FISCAL YEAR 2013 - WILDLIFE STAFF SPECIALIST MIKE COX. (5:44:30) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item. Mr. Lackey explained that the Virginia Range release plan had been presented to the Commission last December, and was denied for “lack of science”. He added that the plan was now placed on the agenda “as it is”, and offered to answer any questions. Mr. Lackey explained that this was a private-lands release, a first time for the Agency. He assumed that the sheep would stay at the north end of the range, and hoped not to have any issues with domestic livestock. He hoped to have at least 40 sheep in the area. In response to a question by Member Davis, Mr. Lackey explained that the sheep would have access to water. He also responded that the sheep would be obtained from the Monte Cristo and Silver Peak areas. Mr. Lackey believed that this would be a great research project. In response to Chairman Yanuck’s question, Mr. Lackey believed that given a healthy ram population, they could begin hunting in three or four years.

10. REPORT ON NEVADA SAGE GROUSE CONSERVATION TEAM - GIL YANUCK (6:48:08) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and advised that the team had met three times in the past two months. He stated that the discussion was centered around the reasons why the US Fish and Wildlife Service had prioritized the Bi-State area as number 3, and the Greater Sage Grouse area as number 8. He indicated that the low numbers would signify a proximity to being listed as endangered. He also explained that the Federal Government felt “there really isn’t a lot of regulatory controls to protect the birds” in Nevada. Member Davis expressed concern about the lion population that had not been managed in California, where they preyed on the Sage Grouse. Chairman Yanuck explained that they were in the process of documenting activities for the Federal Government.

11. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING THE CARSON CITY ADVISORY BOARD TO MANAGE WILDLIFE BUDGET (6:55:23) – Chairman Yanuck introduced the item and explained that they had received their augmentation, and added that the new process was working well, as it helped standardize things.

12. DISCUSSION AND POSSIBLE ACTION REGARDING ADVISORY BOARD MEMBER COMMITMENTS TO UPCOMING WILDLIFE COMMISSION MEETINGS (6:55:49) – Chairperson Yanuck explained that he would attend the Friday and Saturday meetings, and Member Martin would also be present on Saturday.

13. DISCUSSION AND ACTION TO SCHEDULE NEXT CCABMW MEETING. (6:56:03) – Chairman Yanuck advised that the next meeting of the Wildlife Commission is scheduled for September 23 and 24, 2011 in Las Vegas. The next meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife is scheduled for Monday, September 19, 2011, at 5:30 p.m., in the BRIC.

14. STATUS REPORTS FROM STAFF (7:01:49) – Ms. Warren explained the new process for public comments which included soliciting comments after discussion of topics and at the end of each meeting.

15. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS (6:56:35) – Member Valley requested an update regarding his lifetime hunting license proposal. Chairman Yanuck explained that the idea had been voted down in the past for financial reasons. He added that the Pittman Robinson Wildlife Restoration Act Funds allowed counting the issuance of a license once, and deemed it invalid for future years.

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16. PUBLIC COMMENT – None

17. ACTION ON ADJOURNMENT (7:02:29) – Vice Chairman Zuber moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Member Valley. The meeting was adjourned at 7:03 p.m.

The minutes of the August 8, 2011 meeting of the Carson City Advisory Board to Manage Wildlife are approved this 19th day of September, 2011.

GIL YANUCK, Chairman